

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 08619 101549Z
ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8619

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, MILI, AF, US
SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT OF CINCPAC TO KABUL

CINCPAC, ADMIRAL WEISNER, HAS ASKED ME IF HE COULD VISIT
KABUL IN LATE JANUARY-EARLY FEBRUARY, SAYING THAT HE
ALREADY HAS TENTATIVE CLEARANCE TO VISIT BANGLADESH,
INDIA AND PAKISTAN. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE
REPLY I HAVE SENT HIM:

BEGIN QUOTE

1. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WAHEED
ABDULLAH, YOUR INTEREST IN VISITING AFGHANISTAN LATE
JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY. AS I TOLD YOU IN OUR EXCHANGE
OF MESSAGES EARLIER THIS YEAR WHEN YOU WERE THINKING
OF COMING HERE, THE AFGHANS ARE LIKELY TO BE SENSITIVE
TO SOVIET REACTIONS TO A VISIT BY AN AMERICAN MILITARY
OFFICER OF YOUR RANK.

2. ABDULLAH, AFTER A COUPLE OF DAYS' CONSIDERATION,
HAS TOLD ME THAT YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME. HE MADE IT
CLEAR THAT HIS VIEW IS THAT YOUR VISIT WOULD BE A
WELCOME DEMONSTRATION OF AMERICAN INTEREST IN AFGHANISTAN.
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WHEN, HOWEVER, I MENTIONED THAT I WOULD LIKE TO
INTRODUCE YOU TO PRESIDENT DAOUD, HE DEMURRED, SAYING
THAT THAT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO
CHECK WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE ALSO, IN RESPONSE TO MY
QUESTION, SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WITH THE PRESIDENT
TO DETERMINE IF YOU COULD MEET WITH ANY RANKING
AFGHAN MILITARY LEADERS.

3. MY CONCLUSION FROM THE ABOVE IS THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH YOUR COMING HERE ON AN UNOFFICIAL, LOW-KEY BASIS AND WITH A MINIMAL (SAY TWO) STAFF ACCOMPANYING YOU. I WOULD ARRANGE WHATEVER APPOINTMENTS FOR YOU I COULD, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE AFGHANS WOULD PREFER YOUR NOT SEEING THE PRESIDENT.

4. ONE WAY OF ACCOMPLISHING YOUR VISIT IN THIS LOW-PROFILE MANNER WOULD BE FOR YOU TO DRIVE TO KABUL FROM PESHAWAR. (OUR CONSULATE IN PESHAWAR COULD GET YOU TO THE BORDER WHERE WE WOULD PICK YOU UP. IT IS A DRIVE OF ABOUT SIX HOURS.) YOU WOULD THUS SEE THE KHYBER PASS AND THE SPECTACULAR KABUL RIVER GORGE. I SUGGEST YOU THEN SPEND ONE WORKING DAY IN KABUL (PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT THE AFGHAN WEEKEND IS THURSDAY-FRIDAY). THE FOLLOWING DAY EITHER OUR AIR ATTACHE AIRCRAFT COULD FLY YOU TO YOUR NEXT DESTINATION OR YOUR AIRCRAFT COULD COME TO KABUL TO PICK YOU UP.

5. PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR PLANS AS SOON AS THEY START TAKING SHAPE. BEST REGARDS.

END QUOTE.
ELIOT

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